REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 8, 9, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 32 are pending in the application. Claims 8, 9, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 32 are rejected.

Claim 15 is amended and claims 20 and 21 are canceled herein. No new matter is added to these claims.

Claim Amendments

Claim 15 is amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph rejection of the Final Office Action, mailed May 31, 2006 and maintained in the Advisory Action, mailed October 13, 2006. The claim is amended to incorporate the limitation of canceled claim 21. Thus, amended claim 15 is directed to a method of inhibiting tumor growth, inflammation and/or angiogenesis in a patient. This method comprises administering to the patient an antibody directed against a sequence consisting of SEQ ID No. 41 or a sequence consisting of SEQ ID No. 2 that is derived from a cell surface vascular endothelial growth factor and type I collagen inducible protein (VCIP) consisting of SEQ ID No. 13. Such an antibody blocks binding of $\alpha v\beta 3$ and/or $\alpha 5\beta 1$ integrins to the cell surface vascular endothelial growth factor and type I collagen inducible protein, thereby inhibiting tumor growth, inflammation and/or angiogenesis in the patient (see Examples 15-29).

In the Advisory Action mailed October 13, 2006, the Examiner states that the claim amendments in response to the Final Office Action will be entered. However, the amendments failed to overcome some of the claim rejections of the Final Office Action, mailed May 31, 2006. Specifically, the Examiner maintains the following rejections:

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for lack of enablement. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner states that the instant specification teaches a method of treating inflammation or angiogenesis and not a method of treating any pathological condition caused by integrin mediated cell-cell interaction. Additionally, the Examiner states that the instant invention teaches that the peptide was derived from human VCIP of SEQ ID No: 14. Hence, the Examiner maintains the rejection of claim 15 for lack of enablement.

Claim 15 is amended as discussed supra and is directed to a method of inhibiting tumor growth, inflammation and/or angiogenesis in a patient. The instant specification teaches that growth factors and inflammatory cytokines induced expression of VCIP (Example 12). The instant invention investigated the mechanism contributing cell-cell interaction in the above-mentioned cells and demonstrated that the cell-cell interaction was integrin mediated and that VCIP-RGD acted as a cell-associated integrin ligand (Example 15-18). Thus, the integrin mediated cell-cell interaction involving VCIP could also contribute to inflammation. The instant invention also investigated the contribution of VCIP-RGD in adhesion of